

Appl. No.: 09/975,556
Amdt. Dated: 03/22/2006
Off. Act. Dated: 12/22/2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, and 4C.

Sheets 2, 3, and 4, which include FIGS. 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, and 4C, replace original sheets 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

Reference numerals have been added to FIGS. 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, and 4C.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. **Rejection of Claims 3-60 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101.**

At the outset, Applicant is puzzled as to how the Examiner made the determination that claims 3-60 were allowable in the first Office Action, and now is of the opinion that claims 3-60 are not only not allowable, but also non-statutory.

Nonetheless, independent claims 3, 18, 24, 37, and 49 have been amended to include the limitation "wherein a loop-free route for transmitting the data through the network is determined". These claims now recite a tangible result in the body of the claim, as required by the Examiner. Thus, claims 3-60 should now be in condition for allowance.

2. **Objections to Drawings.**

The Examiner has continued his objection to the drawings because each figure does not include "at least one element name and at least one element number". Applicant respectfully maintains that the notation presented in the drawings and in the specification is that not only familiar to, but also utilized by one skilled in the art. Numerals have been added to specifically refer to particular features of Figures 3A-3B and 4A-4C.

In Figures 3A and 3B, the numeral 2 is used to indicate "an example network topology"; the numeral 4 is used to indicate the "adjacent links and neighbor tables"; and the numeral 6 refers to the "table" that contains the main link table and the preferred neighbors.

In Figure 4A, the numeral 12 refers to the "example network topography". In Figure 4B, the numeral 14 indicates the "adjacent links and shortest path trees". In Figure 4C, the numeral 16 refers to the resultant "graph" when an arbitrary tie-breaking manner is utilized.

Should these indications be unacceptable, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specify the particular features, or examples of such features, for which he desires numerals to be included. That is, referring to 37 CFR 1.84(o), the Examiner's assistance is desired in specifically determining which "descriptive legends [are] necessary for understanding of the drawing", as the drawings are currently presented such that one skilled in the art would understand them.

Applicant notes that the element numbers have been added to the Figures by hand, pending acceptance thereof by the Examiner. Once the Examiner indicates that the drawings are acceptable, formal drawings will be submitted.

3. Specification.

The specification has been amended to add element numbers with respect to the amendments of Figures 3A-3B and 4A-4C. No new matter has been added.

4. Amendments Made Without Prejudice or Estoppel.

Notwithstanding the amendments made and accompanying traversing remarks provided above, Applicants have made these amendments in order to expedite allowance of the currently pending subject matter. However, Applicants do not acquiesce in the original ground for rejection with respect to the original form of these claims. These amendments have been made without any prejudice, waiver, or estoppel, and without forfeiture or dedication to the public, with respect to the original subject matter of the claims as originally filed or in their form immediately preceding these amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original scope of these claims in the future, such as through continuation practice for example.

5. Conclusion.

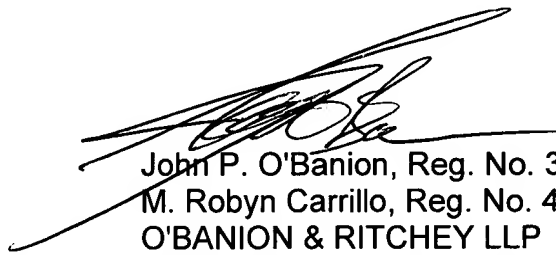
Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the various grounds for rejection in the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn with respect to the presently amended form of the claims, and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the present application to pass to issuance. No new matter has been added.

Appl. No.: 09/975,556
Amdt. Dated: 03/22/2006
Off. Act. Dated: 12/22/2005

In the event any further matters remain at issue with respect to the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner please contact the undersigned below at the telephone number indicated in order to discuss such matter prior to the next action on the merits of this application.

Date: March 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



John P. O'Banion, Reg. No. 33,201
M. Robyn Carrillo, Reg. No. 47,474
O'BANION & RITCHEY LLP
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1550
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-1010

Attachment